

# THANKSGIVING RESOURCES

In 1609, a group of Puritans fleeing religious persecution in England moved to Holland. They lived in Holland for a number of years until a group of English investors -- the Merchant Adventurers -- financed a trip to the New World.

On September 6, 1620, they set sail on a ship called the Mayflower. One hundred and ten Puritans left England and arrived in the New World after 65 days. They settled in a town called Plymouth in what is now Massachusetts. The Puritans (Pilgrims's) first winter was so harsh that fewer than fifty of the group survived the season. On March 16, 1621, an Abnaki Indian named Samoset entered the Plymouth settlement. He and another Indian, Squanto, helped the Pilgrims survive in the New World. They taught them how to get sap out of the maple trees, how to avoid plants that were poisonous and how to plant corn and other crops.

The October harvest was very successful, due in large part to help from the Native Americans. The Pilgrims had enough food for the winter and had learned how to survive in the New World. The Pilgrim governor, William Bradford, decided to have a celebratory feast, and invited the Native American neighbors to take part. The Native Americans brought food as well, and the celebration lasted for three days. Historians believe that this celebration took place sometime in October.

## Websites You May Want to Visit

How Stuff Works: Thanksgiving

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/thanksgiving1.htm>

InfoPlease

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/tgturkey1.html>

Kids Domain

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/thanks/>

## Books You May Want to Read

*Thank you, Sarah : the woman who saved Thanksgiving* by Laurie Halse Anderson Relates how Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday

*It's Thanksgiving* by Jack Prelutsky

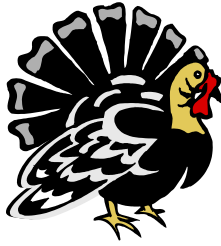
Presents twelve poems about Thanksgiving, including "When Daddy carves the Turkey," "I Ate Too Much," "Daddy's Football Game," and "If Turkeys Thought."

*Thanksgiving crafts* by Judith Hoffman Corwin

A holiday craft book

*Thanksgiving fun* by Judith Hoffman Corwin

Includes recipes for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner as well as instructions for making a Thanksgiving centerpiece, placemats, invitations, and other seasonal craft projects



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*Turkeys, Pilgrims, and Indian corn : the story of the Thanksgiving symbols* by Edna Barth  
Traces the history of this American harvest celebration and the development of its symbols and legends

## To Find More Thanksgiving Information

In TEL, go to **Kids InfoBits** or **Junior Edition - K12** and use the following search terms:

Thanksgiving Day

Pilgrims

Squanto

cornucopia

Mayflower

Puritans

## Interesting Turkey Day Facts:

- Nov. 26, 1789. President Washington Proclaimed Thanksgiving Day. This was passed by both the Houses of Congress. However, the first Thanksgiving proclamation was given not in fall but summer... on June 20, 1676.
- Turkey is the traditional dish for the Thanksgiving feast. In the US, about 280 million turkeys are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations. There is no official reason or declaration for the use of turkey. They just happened to be the most plentiful meat available at the time of the first Thanksgiving in 1621, starting the tradition.
- Fifty percent of Americans say they put stuffing inside the bird, while 50 percent cook it on the side.
- More than 40 million green bean casseroles will be served at Thanksgiving.
- Ninety Native Americans and 52 Pilgrims attended the first meal.
- The first Thanksgiving lasted three days, and several meals were served.
- The Pilgrims and the Native Americans celebrated together playing ball, singing, and dancing.
- The Pilgrims wore brightly colored clothing, not black and white.
- The Native Americans wore deerskin and fur, not blankets.
- In 1863 President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday.